

Relaxing the FCC rules on ownership is a terrible, terrible mistake that will do just the opposite of "promot(ing) competition, diversity and localism in today's media market." When radio station ownership guidelines were relaxed a couple of years ago, it made it easy for megacorporations like Clear Channel to come in and eat up independent stations and put not just a creative stamp on the stations they own, but a political and moral one as well.

This is what is likely to happen with broadcast, cable and print media in the next few years if these rules are relaxed. Increased ownership -- particularly of media outlets such as TV stations and newspapers -- is only going to silence voices as owners are able to control more and more and viewers/readers/listeners are going to be given fewer choices. How can a market be possibly considered "diverse" when the same corporation owns the newspaper, multiple TV stations and radio stations (and possibly serves as an Internet Service Provider) in any given market? How can this be considered furthering the "freedom of the press," particularly when said owner puts forth his political points of view to be expressed in his so-called "objective" media outlets?

The FCC guidelines are to keep competition flourishing and to allow individual voices to be heard in any given community. Relaxing these is only going to taint these markets with the stink of corruption as well-funded monopolies further consolidate their power at the expense of diversity and objectivity.